

Shane Claiborne Quotes

*People, Jesus, Christian, Thinking, Church, World, Believe, Dream, Years,
Community, Mean, Prayer, War, Eye, Kings, Needs, Beautiful, Mother,
Together, Hands*

Perhaps there is no more dangerous place for a Christian to be than in safety and comfort, detached from the suffering of others.

~Shane Claiborne

The Christian icon is not the Stars and Stripes but a cross-flag, and its emblem is not a donkey, an elephant, or an eagle, but a slaughtered lamb.

~Shane Claiborne

Most good things have been said far too many times and just need to be lived.

~Shane Claiborne

All around you, people will be tiptoeing through life, just to arrive at death safely. But dear children, do not tiptoe. Run, hop, skip, or dance, just don't tiptoe.

~Shane Claiborne

How can we worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday?

~Shane Claiborne

God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable.

~Shane Claiborne

When we ask God to move a mountain, God may give us a shovel.

~Shane Claiborne

There are some things to die for but none to kill for.

~Shane Claiborne

It is a beautiful thing when folks in poverty are no longer just a missions project but become genuine friends and family with whom we laugh, cry, dream and struggle.

~Shane Claiborne

I learned more about God from the tears of homeless mothers than any systematic theology ever taught me.

~Shane Claiborne

I wondered if there were other restless people asking the question with me: What if Jesus meant the stuff he said?.

~Shane Claiborne

Christianity is at its best when it is peculiar, marginalized, suffering, and it is at its worst when it is popular, credible, triumphal, and powerful.

~Shane Claiborne

We give people fish. We teach them to fish. We tear down the walls that have been built up around the fish pond. And we figure out who polluted it.

~Shane Claiborne

The more I get to know Jesus, the more trouble he seems to get me into.

~Shane Claiborne

If we believe terrorists are past redemption, we should just rip up like 1/2 the New Testament because it was written by one.

~Shane Claiborne

Recognizing that something is wrong is the first step toward changing the world.

~Shane Claiborne

There is nothing more sickening than talking about poverty over a fancy dinner.

~Shane Claiborne

It's hard to hear the gentle whisper of the Spirit amid the noise of Christendom.

~Shane Claiborne

It doesn't matter who you are. Everyone has something to offer the movement of justice

~Shane Claiborne

A pastor friend of mine said, "Our problem is that we no longer have martyrs. We only have celebrities.

~Shane Claiborne

Prayer is not so much about convincing God to do what we want God to do as it is about convincing ourselves to do what God wants us to do.

~Shane Claiborne

The more I have read the Bible and studied the life of Jesus, the more I have become convinced that Christianity spreads best not through force but through fascination.

~Shane Claiborne

Mother Theresa always said, "Calcuttas are everywhere if only we have eyes to see. Find your Calcutta."

~Shane Claiborne

In the Bible, God uses brothel owners, pagan kings, murderers and mercenaries as instruments of good; at one point God even speaks to a guy named Balaam through his donkey.

~Shane Claiborne

The work of community, love, reconciliation, restoration is the work we cannot leave up to politicians. This is the work we are all called to do.

~Shane Claiborne

The church is a place where broken people can fall in love with a beautiful God.

~Shane Claiborne

There is a movement bubbling up that goes beyond cynicism and celebrates a new way of living, a generation that stops complaining about the church it sees and becomes the church it dreams of.

~Shane Claiborne

Christians pretty much live like everybody else, they just sprinkle a little Jesus in along the way.

~Shane Claiborne

To all my nonbelieving, sort-of-believing, and used-to-be-believing friends: I feel like I should begin with a confession. I am sorry that so often the biggest obstacle to God has been Christians.

~Shane Claiborne

Charity is merely returning what we have stolen.

~Shane Claiborne

We can tell the world that there is life after death, but the world really seems to be wondering if there is life before death.

~Shane Claiborne

The greatest sin of political imagination: Thinking there is no other way except the filthy rotten system we have today.

~Shane Claiborne

My goal is to speak the truth in love. There are a lot of people speaking the truth with no love, and there are a lot of people talking about love without much truth.

~Shane Claiborne

Violence is for those who have lost their imagination.

~Shane Claiborne

You can't really learn God's hope like you learn the logic of an argument or the details of a story. It's more like learning to belly laugh. You catch hope from someone who has it down in their gut.

~Shane Claiborne

And since we are people of expectation, we are so convinced that another world is coming that we start living as if it were already here.

~Shane Claiborne

I engage with local politics because it affects people I love. And I engage in national politics because it affects people I love.

~Shane Claiborne

As Christians, we should be the best collaborators in the world. We should be quick to find unlikely allies and subversive friends, like Jesus did.

~Shane Claiborne

The world is looking, not for Christians who are perfect, but for Christians who are honest and who are willing to be honest with some of our contradictions and hypocrisy.

~Shane Claiborne

We are setting ourselves up for disappointment if our hope is built on anything less than Jesus.

~Shane Claiborne

We have to use our discontentment to engage rather than disengage - our hope has to be more powerful than our cynicism.

~Shane Claiborne

Faith is not accepting the world as it is but insisting on building the world God wants.

~Shane Claiborne

When we realize that we are both wretched and beautiful, we are freed up to see others the same way.

~Shane Claiborne

Someday war and poverty will be crazy and we will wonder how the world allowed such things to exist.

~Shane Claiborne

Every 70-year-old needs a young person in their lives to mentor, and every 20-year-old needs a senior.

~Shane Claiborne

Dance until they kill you, and then we'll dance some more.

~Shane Claiborne

There is a difference between feeding someone and eating dinner with them. If every Christian at home just made room for the stranger we would end homelessness overnight.

~Shane Claiborne

One thing that's clear in the Scriptures is that the nations do not lead people to peace; rather, people lead the nations to peace.

~Shane Claiborne

Rather than finding the devil "out there," we battle the devil within us. The revolution starts inside each of us.

~Shane Claiborne

It is the church's job, as Dr. [Martin Luther] King says, to be the conscience of the state, not the chaplain of the state.

~Shane Claiborne

There is a certain power when old and young come together - we can do more together than we can on our own.

~Shane Claiborne

It's not that hard to say slavery is wrong after we've abolished it.

~Shane Claiborne

Jesus taught us a prayer of community and reconciliation, belonging to a new people who have left the land of 'me'.

~Shane Claiborne

The church is like Noah's ark. It stinks, but if you get out of it, you'll drown.

~Shane Claiborne

We should refuse to get sucked into political camps and insist on pulling the best out of all of them. That's what Jesus did - challenge the worst of each camp and pull out the best of each.

~Shane Claiborne

Let's keep refusing to accept the world as it is and insisting on building the world we dream of. Don't let the haters have the last word.

~Shane Claiborne

As my friend said that when people say the church is full of hypocrites, he says we always have room for more.

~Shane Claiborne

When the church takes affairs of the state more seriously than they do Jesus, Pax Romana becomes its gospel and the president becomes the Son of God.

~Shane Claiborne

We have a relational problem with those who are suffering or who are different from us. All of us are most comfortable around people who are like us culturally and economically.

~Shane Claiborne

People had taught me what Christians believe, but no one had told me how Christians live.

~Shane Claiborne

Our churches should attract the people Jesus attracted and frustrate the people Jesus frustrated.

~Shane Claiborne

If you have two coats you have stolen one. We have no right to have more than we need when someone else has less than they need.

~Shane Claiborne

Discontentment is a gift. It's the stuff that changes the world.

~Shane Claiborne

No one has seen God, but as we love one another, God lives in us.

~Shane Claiborne

There is extreme poverty in Appalachia, where I was, and increasingly poverty is not just an urban thing.

~Shane Claiborne

We need good laws, but no law can change a human heart - only God can do that.

~Shane Claiborne

When we truly discover how to love our neighbor as our self, Capitalism will not be possible and Marxism will not be necessary.

~Shane Claiborne

Faith is being idealistic, because we have made an idol out of the status quo.

~Shane Claiborne

Too often we just do what makes sense to us and ask God to bless it.

~Shane Claiborne

Certainly the institutional church is ill. It's hemorrhaging young people at an astronomical rate.

~Shane Claiborne

The best critique of what is wrong is the practice of something better. So let's stop complaining about the church we've experienced and work on becoming the church we dream of.

~Shane Claiborne

To refer to the Church as a building is to call people 2 x 4's.

~Shane Claiborne

Little movements of communities of ordinary radicals are committed to doing small things with great love.

~Shane Claiborne

The love that makes community is the willingness to do someone else's dirty work.

~Shane Claiborne

I'm just not convinced that Jesus is going to say, "When I was hungry, you gave a check to the United Way and they fed me."

~Shane Claiborne

Believe in miracles. And live in a way that might necessitate one.

~Shane Claiborne

Faith is believing in the impossible because we have a God who is master of impossible.

~Shane Claiborne

God doesn't want to change the world without you.

~Shane Claiborne

Love has no limits. Compassion has no party. It is the responsibility of every human being and every institution to end poverty and to interrupt injustice.

~Shane Claiborne

There are financial bankruptcies in many parts of the church. No question about that. But we see the possibility of reimagining and revitalizing the church.

~Shane Claiborne

If every Christian family brought in a child who needed a family we would put the foster care system out of business.

~Shane Claiborne

We can ignore suffering no matter where we live. There are people who live a few miles from me who never see much poverty or the injustices that live on our doorstep.

~Shane Claiborne

There is real value in these local congregations. For me, a lot of it is the value of the sacraments we share. In neighborhoods like ours, the churches provide stability.

~Shane Claiborne

This common prayer project has taken years of energy, but we see it not as a way to leave our individual churches, but as a movement we hope to see permeate the larger Church.

~Shane Claiborne

We know the Church wasn't born 200 years ago. It's encouraging to see some of the post-denominational churches actually wanting to reconnect with the story and the prayer life of the larger Church.

~Shane Claiborne

Somehow Jesus's reputation has survived all the embarrassing things that Christians have done in his name.

~Shane Claiborne

It is the church's responsibility, the government's responsibility, and the personal responsibility of every one of us to love.

~Shane Claiborne

We're not church planters. We are community planters and, as we work in our communities, we join local churches.

~Shane Claiborne

When it comes to the big issues like immigration, everyone has a role. The government has a role. The church has a role. Every Christian has a role.

~Shane Claiborne

Sometimes our tunnel vision is limited to what we see outside our window. Until racial injustice becomes personal then I don't think it moves us in our gut.

~Shane Claiborne

Jesus still has a really great reputation and the Spirit is still moving. I've got a lot of hope for a generation that takes Jesus seriously, once again.

~Shane Claiborne

I think in the end, God's justice is redemptive, it's restorative, it's about giving life, not taking life.

~Shane Claiborne

I would love to see the Church on the right side of history.

~Shane Claiborne

[Jesus] said that they will know we are Christians - not by our bumper stickers and T-shirts - but by our love.

~Shane Claiborne

I say let's be idealists. "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not yet see" (Hebrews 11:1).

~Shane Claiborne

Jesus did not send us into the world to make believers but to make disciples.

~Shane Claiborne

Because you can poke someone's eye out legally doesn't mean you should and that it's right. The Bible teaches us a more perfect justice.

~Shane Claiborne

I have this certain reluctance when it comes to this idea that we are spiritual but not religious and we want Jesus but not the church. Why can't we have both?

~Shane Claiborne

The question becomes not just how to accumulate more, but how to covet less.

~Shane Claiborne

David, Moses, Saul of Tarsus, these were all people who did terrible terrible things - they were murderers. The Bible would be a lot

shorter without grace.

~Shane Claiborne

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